

## 5.2 EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK PARK

### DESCRIPTION

Eighteen Mile Creek Park is defined by the two branches of Eighteen Mile Creek; the North Branch and South Branch. This 464-acre park is presently undeveloped. Access is extremely difficult to the Creek and parking is currently very limited, however, this portion of the Creek is a hot-spot for fishing. While the park's landscape character is dramatically marked by a 60' deep gorge cut by Eighteen Mile Creek, most of the Park's land above the gorge and between the two branches of the creek is very flat. The park is generally tree covered, with former farm fields reverting back to woodlands. Previous concepts for this park proposed a conservation-oriented park with nature study and passive recreation, and an alternative proposed developing the land into a golf course. Current plans call for maintaining the passive, natural setting of the entire park area.

### LOCAL CONTEXT

Located on the southern edge of the Town of Hamburg, Eighteen Mile Creek Park lies approximately 15 miles south of Downtown Buffalo. The Park is located between the fork of the North Branch and South Branch of the Creek. It is situated roughly 3.5 miles from Lake Erie and 3 miles from the Village of Hamburg. The center of the park is accessible only via South Creek Road, a narrow, two-lane Town Road. The area around the property is largely rural, with a few newer residences and housing developments nearby. Also, to the east and north of the park is the thickly settled Village of Hamburg. The south fork of the Creek borders on the Town of Eden.

### CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- *This magnificent Creek setting has difficult access with only limited parking opportunities*
- *Complaints have been raised by certain neighboring residents; some people are accessing the park area through private properties, which cannot be tolerated.*
- *More fishing opportunities should be provided.*

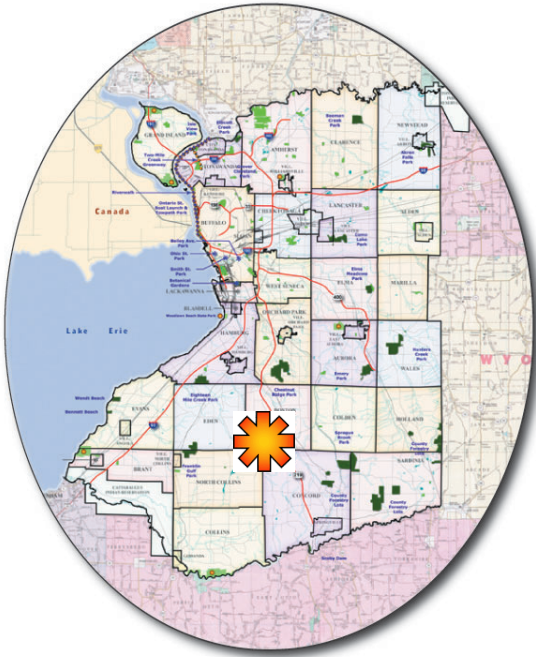
#### EXISTING PARK FEATURES AND FACILITIES

- *Fishing Access*
- *Trails*
- *Old Dam*
- *Former pump house*
- *Overlook areas*
- *Non-improved canoe launch area / access down to edge of creek.*

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## SPECIFIC MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

- *At this point, no master plan development is anticipated in the near future at the Eighteen Mile Creek Park site.. Informal access is currently found along the banks of the creek/gorge.*
- *Improve and enhance fishing access to this important site.*
- *Improve and promote “public access” points to the park, while discouraging and prohibiting access to the County property through any private properties, including via the Creek itself.*



## 5.3 BOSTON FOREST PARK

### DESCRIPTION

Boston Forest is a 710-acre undeveloped County Park property in southern Erie County. Technically, almost 480 acres is parkland and the remaining 230 acres is Forestry Division lands. The eastern half of the park is relatively flat, while the remainder has sloping terrain. Three major swales cut through the property from east to west. Most of the property is a combination of woodlands and naturalizing meadows with small tree growth. A number of nature trails traverse the property.

### LOCAL CONTEXT

Boston Forest is located in the southwest section of the Town of Boston and approximately 18 miles from Downtown Buffalo. Roads that bound the park include Fedick Road on the east and south, Rice Road to the north, and Zimmerman Road to the east. The Rice Road interchange from Route 219 Expressway is located one-half mile to the east. The area around the property is a rural community of forests, farms and occasional residences. The most unique and significant adjacent land use is the Hunting and Conservation Club located on Zimmerman Road immediately south and east of the parkland.

### SPECIFIC MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

- *At this point, no master plan development is anticipated in the near future at the Boston Forest Park property in the Town of Boston. Numerous existing trails currently traverse the property.*
- *Potential development of a small informal parking area (approximately 20-25 cars) as an appropriate trail head location on Fedick Road south of Enser Road.*
- *Install proper trail head signage and appropriate rules*

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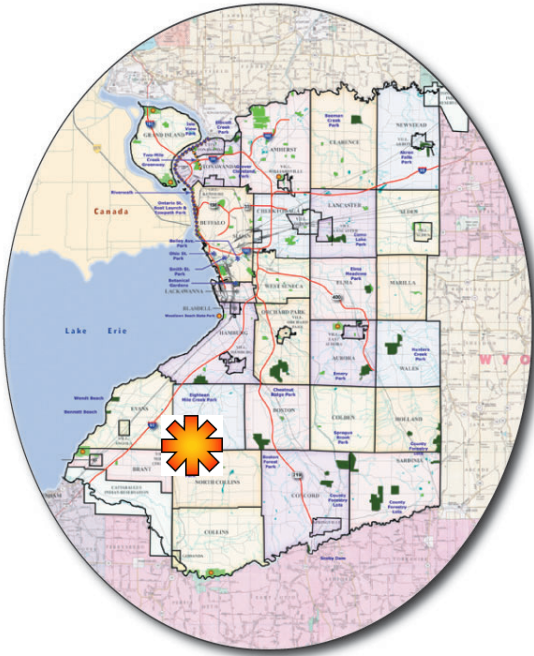
*for use as a Conservation Park.*

- *For all future trail developments, similar to Hunters creek Park, a trail design expert should be hired to produce an environmentally sustainable, multi-use trail network.*

## 5.4 FRANKLIN GULF PARK

### DESCRIPTION

Formerly known as Larkin Woods, Franklin Gulf Park is a 637-acre, County-owned, undeveloped park in the Towns of Eden and North Collins. It is primarily a wooded area that has impressive topography and scenic natural features, such as creeks, ravines, waterfalls and ledge outcroppings. The topography is dominated by the “gulf,” a steep gorge which is practically inaccessible. The park landscape lends itself best to passive uses such as trails development and nature enhancement uses.



### LOCAL CONTEXT

This irregularly-shaped park is generally bounded by Sandrock Road to the north, Rogers Road to the east and School Street to the South. Surrounding land uses are largely agricultural, with a scattering of residences throughout the countryside. The Village of North Collins is only a short distance to the south and west of the property. An active railroad line crosses the gulf slightly beyond the western edge of the park.

### SPECIFIC MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

- *No master plan development is anticipated in the near future at the Franklin Gulf Park site in the Towns of Eden and North Collins. Numerous existing trails currently traverse the property. The Town of Eden Comprehensive Plan (2000) promotes the retention and use of the park for passive park purposes.*
- *A beautiful ravine and creek within the property should be highlighted under future signage and trail development initiatives.*
- *Potential development of a small informal parking area (approximately 20-25 cars) as an appropriate trail head location on either School Street just east of North Collins or along Rogers Road.*
- *Install proper trail head signage and appropriate rules for use of the Conservation Park.*
- *For all future trail developments, similar to Hunters creek Park, a trail design expert should be hired to produce an environmentally sustainable, multi-use trail network.*

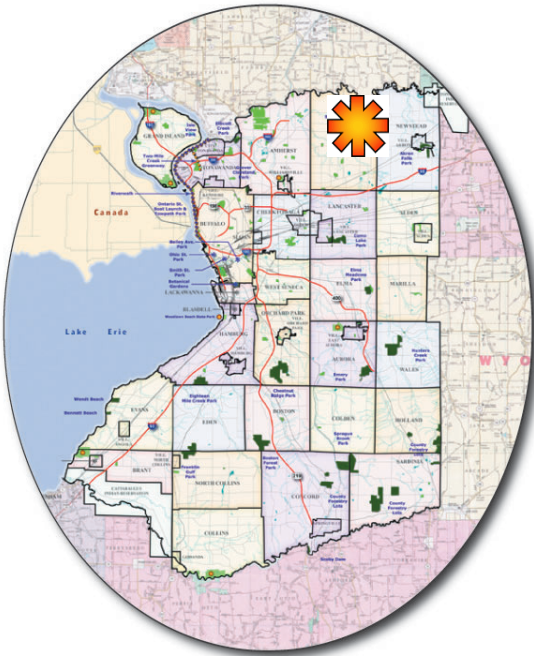
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## 5.5 BEEMAN CREEK PARK

### DESCRIPTION

Beeman Creek is a 391-acre, rectangular parcel of land located in the Town of Clarence in northeast Erie County. This property is generally flat and is dominated by woodlands and reverting fields and meadows. Beeman Creek itself runs roughly along the eastern end of the park, forking into two streams on the south end. The Creek has great seasonal variance, running less than a one-foot depth during dry spells.



### LOCAL CONTEXT

The undeveloped Beeman Creek Park is located in the northern half of Clarence, surrounded by a largely rural area with a scattering of nearby residences. Clarence has been, and continues to be, one of Erie County's fastest growing communities, with new housing developments creeping farther out into the countryside. Lapp Road forms the southern property border and Salt Road borders the east side of the park. Several parcels of private residential land on both Lapp and Salt Roads are exceptions not included within the park's boundary line.

### SPECIFIC MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

- *At this point, no master plan development is anticipated in the near future at the Beeman Creek Park site.*
- *As with the other Conservation Park's, potential exists for the development of a small informal parking area (approximately 20-25 cars) as an appropriate trail head location on either Lapp Road or Salt Road.*
- *Install proper trail head signage and appropriate rules for use of the Conservation Park.*

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# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES / PARK SPECIFIC ACTIONS

## PRIORITY KEY

- S Short Term *(1 - 3 years)*
- M Mid Term *(4 - 10 years)*
- L Long Term *(11 - 20+ years)*
- O Ongoing *(Continuing Efforts each year)*